Feline helps friends find confidence before adoption

Purr-fessional cat on staff

SICSA supports pets and people throughout 2021

Most adoptions in a single year
Record-breaking number of pets find homes

Serving both ends of the leash
SICSA supports pets and people throughout 2021

Purr-fessional cat on staff
Feline helps friends find confidence before adoption
Adopting more than ever before!

2,153 pets were adopted and placed by SICSA last year, including Bear (pictured here with his new pet parent). This marks the highest number of dogs and cats sent to loving homes in the history of the organization. With socialization, behavioral aid, and medical care provided before adoption; and follow-up support offered after; pets and owners are more well-equipped to begin their journey together. SICSA was incredibly grateful to have so many adopters in 2021. Help SICSA send pets home again in 2022 by connecting with us on Facebook and sharing our adoptable pet posts with your friends!

A new type of working purr-fesional.

The SICSA staff grew by four paws in 2021. Ida B. Wells officially joined the Animal Care Team in October, and she has been excelling in her role ever since! Named after the journalist and civil rights activist, Ida has been making a difference in the lives of other cats by aiding with behavioral care in SICSA’s Kitty City. When she isn’t busy helping her cat friends adjust to shelter life, she’s being spoiled by her SICSA family with cuddles and treats.
By following Becca’s advice, Elizabeth saw improvement in Gimli’s behavior and now the pair get along swimmingly, enjoying each other’s company without the worry of inappropriate biting or scratching. SICSA’s post-adoption behavior support made the difference between Gimli being returned to the shelter and her remaining in her loving, forever home where she belongs.

In October of 2021, Elizabeth adopted Gimli from one of SICSA’s satellite adoption locations. Gimli was just a kitten at the time, and when she was comfortable at home with Elizabeth, she began displaying some unwanted behavior. Elizabeth was doing her best to care for Gimli, but Gimli’s habit of play biting was becoming too much to handle. Elizabeth feared she may have to return Gimli to SICSA.

When Elizabeth called SICSA to share her concerns, staff recommended she speak with SICSA’s Cat Behaviorist Becca Millis first. Becca explained that Gimli was acting like a typical “teenage” only child. Gimli wanted to play! Becca was able to offer suggestions to curb the behavior, like more enrichment activities and hunt-play with items like wand toys and laser lights.

The Road to SICSA: Tails of Texas

As winter weather devastated the state of Texas in the spring of 2021, frozen pipes and power outages left many animal shelters inoperable. Given the high euthanasia rates throughout underserved areas in the state, this situation was dire for homeless pets. When SICSA’s President & CEO heard our national partners’ calls for help, she dove into planning mode. “While our primary responsibility is regionally, SICSA also has an obligation to the greater, nationwide animal welfare community”, stated Vondrell. “We cannot turn a blind eye to those communities experiencing disasters and crisis when I know we can help.”

Less than a week later, SICSA Marketing Manager Kaitlin Becraft, along with volunteers Lynn Woodard, Ann Long, and Sharron Mattingly took off on a 1,176 mile journey to Austin, Texas. After reaching Austin Pets Alive, the team loaded up 12 dogs, said goodbye to their new Texas friends, and began the long journey home. Each break – and there were many – were filled with walks, treats, tail wags, and even a few puppy kisses.

When they finally returned to SICSA, the Animal Care Team and volunteers greeted the highly anticipated dogs. From under-resourced shelters all over Texas, to comfortable beds and play yards to explore, the pets were finally safe in their temporary home. Within a few months, all of the pets were adopted by their new families. Now they live free from fear of euthanasia, enjoying the second chance they deserve. Though the 12 dogs make up a small fraction of the 496 animals transported to SICSA in 2021, this trip made a lifesaving difference in each of their lives.
In 2021, utilizing seed funding received through a PetSmart Charities grant, SICSA launched the Community Veterinary Care (CVC) Program. The Veterinary team sets up MASH-style clinics across the Greater Dayton region, and in areas which have been identified by community partners as most “in need.” The clinics are limited to cats and dogs, with each animal receiving a nose to tail assessment by a licensed veterinarian. Vaccinations, flea control, and even medications for some conditions are also provided that day. For additional needs, SICSA offers follow-up services at their center in South Dayton. To date, those additional services have included spays and neuters, mass removals, radiographs, dentals, and more – all based upon income and on a sliding fee. After serving 327 pets in 2021, SICSA is expanding the program in 2022 to offer nine clinics, including two to be held in Greene County.
Mia's Story: A Lifesaving Tail

Mia's pet parents knew she wasn’t feeling well when they took her to a local veterinary clinic in the fall of 2021. They soon learned that Mia had Pyometra, a potentially deadly infection in her uterus. Mia needed a costly surgery; one her parents could not afford. Knowing Mia was in pain, the family was faced with a heart-breaking decision: allow her to remain in pain and likely die from the infection or help her pass humanely through euthanasia. They loved Mia too much to allow her to suffer. Knowing the family’s financial situation, the clinic suggested they contact SICSA to perform the euthanasia.

When Mia’s pet parents explained the situation to the SICSA staff, they wanted to help. Because SICSA’s Veterinary Clinic is part of the 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, the clinic can utilize donations to help save the lives of animals like Mia. SICSA provided the life-saving surgery the next morning. Through the generosity of SICSA’s donors, Mia’s family didn’t have to say goodbye to their beloved pet. Instead, they were able to welcome home a happy and healthy Mia. Mia’s parents are overjoyed and so thankful for SICSA’s mission and charitable donors.

Community Cats: SICSA's Focus On TNRM

In 2021, 643 "Community Cats" received care through SICSA’s TNRM (Trap, Neuter, Return, Monitor) program. Community Cats do not have an “owner”. They may be feral or friendly, and could have several people who care for them in some way (providing food, water and even shelter during inclement weather). Community Cats are often not adoption candidates. They enjoy the freedom they have in the neighborhoods in which they live. They have established a network, a defined territory, and access to the basic necessities to survive. Given their free-roaming nature, they also become pregnant more often, thus adding to the issue of overpopulation and cat homelessness.

Not everyone likes seeing outdoor cats, especially during inclement weather or in cases where they are perceived to be a nuisance. The most humane way to combat the issues Community Cats face is through TNRM (Trap, Neuter, Return, Monitor). With the help of dedicated Community Cat Captains, SICSA seeks to spay and neuter even more of these unique cats in 2022. Once returned to their home territories, the captains will continue to monitor the cats in their given area, ensuring their continued wellbeing alongside SICSA. Beyond population control, the spaying and neutering of these Community Cats allows them to avoid many of the medical complications that come with being unaltered or giving birth without proper medical care. SICSA looks forward to maintaining and expanding our efforts for Community Cats throughout the Miami Valley this year.
Volunteers save lives with SICSA

Jane Campbell and Brigitte Marbury are two of the 651 volunteers who generously gave their time to SICSA in 2021. Both women made an incredible impact on the lives of dozens of dogs with complex behavioral needs through their work with SICSA’s Mod Squad. The Mod Squad are a group of dedicated individuals who spend extra time with dogs in need of additional attention. Don’t worry cat lovers, they have their own behavior team – the Cat Whisperers. They provide enrichment activities, behavioral training, and most importantly - love.

Jane and Brigitte visit SICSA’s behaviorally challenged pups and lead them through nose work (a hide and seek game with treats), taking them on long walks, and offering enthusiastic praise for good behavior. Brigitte is also a valued Foster Volunteer, often welcoming dogs into her home that are considered harder to place. Both women have helped numerous dogs overcome barriers to adoption through positive reinforcement, enrichment, and basic training.

Volunteers like Jane and Brigitte make a lifesaving difference in the lives of pets at SICSA. The dedication, care, patience, and love of SICSA volunteers saved thousands of dogs and cats in 2021, and will continue to do so. If you would like to join this selfless team of individuals, please visit www.sicsa.org/volunteer to sign up today.
Sewing the Extra Mile: Friends of SICSA

Friends of SICSA, a group of artisan volunteers who make and sell crafts to benefit SICSA, went above and beyond in 2021. This dedicated group raised a record-breaking $48,449.77 for pets in need! The group, led by Heather Saxe, creates items like crocheted cat nip mice, hand-sewn crate mats, dog toys, macramé cat hammocks, quilts, and more! They sell their goods on SICSA’s online store and at community festivals and events, donating all proceeds to SICSA.

The group’s dedication has made an incredible impact on the lives of the dogs and cats being cared for at SICSA. Friends of SICSA serves as a reminder that there are plenty of ways to help homeless pets, even outside of the shelter. Friends of SICSA looks forward to hosting and attending many events throughout 2022. To keep up with the group and learn where you can find them next, visit www.facebook.com/FriendsofSICSA.

2021 Unaudited Operating Budget

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<th>INCOME</th>
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<th>EXPENSES</th>
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<td><strong>Net Income for Investments</strong></td>
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The pets and people of SICSA Pet Adoption & Wellness Center are deeply grateful for your support. SICSA strives to be a good steward of your patronage. SICSA is independently audited on an annual basis. Charity Navigator, Guidestar, and the Better Business Bureau are just a few organizations that continue to applaud SICSA’s transparency, management practices, outcomes, and reputation.

SICSA Pet Adoption & Wellness Center is a 501(c)3 charitable organization.

EIN: 23-7367199
Animals Adopted and Placed: 2,153

Volunteers: 651

210 hours of humane education summer camp

296 local pets receiving food or support services

4,387 low cost spay and neuter procedures

327 animals served through Community Veterinary Care Clinics

496 pets saved with rescue transfer

22 Safe Pets placed with emergency fosters

Pup-coming Events at SICSA!

Crazy Cat Lady Kitten Shower
April 23rd
10:00AM to 11:30AM

Spring Adoption Event
April 23rd
12:00PM to 7:00PM

SICSA Summer Camps
Weekly
June 20th - July 29th
Learn more on our website!

Find us online!

www.sicsa.org

www.facebook.com/sicsapets

@sicsa